

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, I am writing you in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry regarding current policy principles pertaining to Internet consumer protection. The NBCC strongly discourages the Commission from any action that would result in federal intervention in the Internet service industry or any intervention that would at all effect the ongoing deployment of broadband network infrastructure around the country.

The arguments against net-neutrality regulations – which would insert government regulators at the nexus of Internet content providers, service providers, and consumers – are well known. The upload/download speed discrimination these regulations would supposedly cure are mythical; not a single instance has ever been recorded by a single consumer advocacy organization. Given this fact, arguments in favor of breaking the Commission's long-standing, and highly successful, policy of non-intervention strain credibility. The regulations being pushed on the Commission by net-neutrality lobbyists are designed for one purpose – to transfer power away from Internet consumers to certain types of Internet companies.

To date, empowered consumers in this market have led a telecommunications revolution, fundamentally changing the way the world works, creating millions of jobs and billions of dollars along the way. Now, more than ever, that momentum must be sustained as the Internet moves from a narrow-band to a broad-band network that can finally start to stretch the potential of the technology.

To minority communities and businesses, that potential is a key to our future. Broadband will means priceless – and, for that matter, inexpensive and easily accessible – opportunities in education, business, and communication. Add to that the growing market of minority-targeted Internet content producers; they will be left behind if regulations hand Internet delivery over to an elite group of well-connected companies. What makes the Internet so successful, so diverse, and so attractive to entrepreneurs is the lack of barriers to entry. No market, no set of customers, in the world is as accessible as online users. Regulating the Internet will, as regulations in every industry, merely help the rich and

establish get richer and more established, while making it harder for less fortunate, less well-placed companies to compete.

Minority communities in such an environment, where access to Internet content made for and by them will be degraded, will be relegated to an online ghetto, and unacceptable outcome given the promise Internet technology holds for those communities today. Consumers are already protected by a self-regulating, competitive market far better than they would be under a regime of government intervention and favoritism.

Sincerely,
Harry C. Alford

Harry C. Alford
President/CEO